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*Office Memorandum* • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Assistant Director for Operations

DATE: 9 December 1949

FROM : Chief, FBID

SUBJECT: Foreign Language Broadcasting by Standard Broadcast Band  
Stations in the United States.

1. A brief and informal exploration of this subject indicates that:

a. A United States radio station is required to reregister with the FCC every three years at which time a sample of its program is submitted. Transmission of detailed program schedules on a continuing basis is not required nor is a station required to indicate at time of registration or reregistration that it is broadcasting or intends to broadcast in a foreign language. Thus the FCC has no accurate record of stations broadcasting in foreign languages and what out-of-date data it does have could be obtained only by perusing the registration files of some 3,000 stations.

b. It is possible that up-to-date information on this subject can be obtained from:

- (1) The Federal Bureau of Investigation.
- (2) The National Association of Broadcasters, Washington, D. C.
- (3) The Association of Foreign Language Broadcasters, New York City. This is an organization in which one of the mainsprings is said to be Arnold Hartley, Program Director of Radio Station WOV, 730 Fifth Avenue, New York City. The organization is not known to maintain an office and is apparently a group cooperating out of common interest.

c. The stations listed below are known to engage in foreign language broadcasting. Of these, WGES (Chicago) and WOV (New York City) are believed to be the leading U. S. foreign language broadcasters.

WGES, Chicago, Illinois  
WOV, New York, N. Y.  
WEW, St. Louis, Missouri

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WHFC, Cicero, Illinois  
WEDC, Chicago, Illinois  
WHDH, Boston, Mass.  
WCOP, Boston, Mass.  
WHOM, Jersey City, N. J.  
WPIK, Alexandria, Virginia  
WARL, Arlington, Virginia  
WSBC, Chicago, Illinois  
WFOX, Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
WEXL, Royal Oak, Michigan  
WJLD, Bessemer, Alabama  
WORL, Boston, Mass.  
WSAR, Fall River, Mass.  
WEVD, New York, N. Y.  
WTEL, Philadelphia, Pa.  
WHAT, Philadelphia, Pa.  
WBUD, Morristown, Pa.  
WLIB, New York, N. Y.  
WWRL, Woodside, N. Y.  
WHBL, Jersey City, N. J.  
WRIB, Providence, R. I.  
WIBU, Poynette, Wisconsin  
Unnamed stations in Toledo, Buffalo  
Cleveland, Chicago, Minneapolis-St. Paul,  
Texas and California borders, San  
Francisco, Scranton, Wilkes-Barre,  
Pittsburg.

2. The Chief, Inspection and Security Staff has been requested to determine whether or not the FBI has any data on this subject and if so to obtain it for FBID. The Contact Division (through ADO) has been requested to obtain whatever information is available from the National Association of Broadcasters and the Association of Foreign Language Broadcasters.

3. Since stations broadcasting in foreign languages ordinarily use low power and shared frequency channels, it is extremely doubtful that present FBID technical facilities could monitor very many of the foreign language broadcasts. It is certain that the present staff could not assume responsibility for any considerable volume of domestic monitoring. However, if reasonably accurate information can be obtained through the sources mentioned above, or others, a fairly accurate estimate of FBID's capacity and potential in this field can be prepared.

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